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## Fine display of brain power from students in science competition

Cambridgeshire school pupils proved they had a head for art – and science – in the annual Imagining The Brain competition.



YOUNG artists from Cambridgeshire schools brushed up on their neuroscience this summer to produce some spectacular artwork.

Imagining the Brain is a project that invites Cambridgeshire pupils with an interest in art and science to cut through the jargon usually associated with complex subjects such as neuroscience and use art as a means of communication.

This year, the theme of The Art of Mortality allowed artists to explore how pathogens can be so successful, looking at why the Black Death was such a devastating epidemic. A different sort of mortality was addressed in the topic of neurodegeneration, in which some of the most recent research into devastating diseases, including Parkinson's and Alzheimer's, was movingly and expertly depicted by the artists.

Edward Parkhurst, 18, from the Leys School, and Patrick Lyons, 15, a pupil at the Parkside Federation, won joint first prize. Edward produced a stunning triptych, Order and Pattern, showing the structure of the brain seen through scanning technology, and Patrick's work was a sculpture, Seeing the Difference, showing the disruption of an essential component of nerve cells that occurs in Alzheimer's disease.

They both received prizes of £100 at an awards ceremony at the Medical Research Council's Laboratory of Molecular Biology last week.

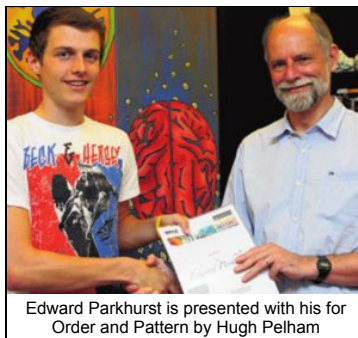
Tristan Currie, 19, and Madeleine Lawson, 17, both from Netherhall Sixth Form College, won second and third place respectively, with highly commended awards going to Chloe Austin and Adam Duncan from Parkside, Kirtee Kebila from Netherhall, and Frances Thompson from Impington Village College.

The Impington school was awarded the KPMG School Science Communication Award, in recognition of its participation in the project since its inception six years ago, and its commitment to engaging students with the forefront of scientific research. The school has produced two artists in residence for the project, whose work has been used internationally.

The £500 award was welcomed by the head of art, Graham McGregor, who said: "We intend to buy new equipment for the art department with this money. It will make a real difference to the artwork that our students can do."

Artist and engineer Diana Scarborough was one of the judges. She said: "The students were obviously inspired by the subject, and it was a delight to see such an array of imaginative and high-calibre works delivered using a wide range of media.

"Given the diversity of interpretation, selecting



Edward Parkhurst is presented with his for Order and Pattern by Hugh Pelham



Patrick Lyons' Seeing the Difference

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